

Nations. The resolution urges the President and all members of the United States diplomatic corps to dissuade member states of the United Nations from voting in support of General Assembly resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel, and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

On October 21, 2003, the United Nations General Assembly ratified a resolution condemning Israeli security measures. The resolution did not call on the Palestinian Authority to dismantle terrorist organizations, nor did it name those organizations. Yet it passed by a vote of 144-4, with 12 abstentions. Other than the United States, only Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Israel itself voted against the resolution.

This resolution was only the latest in a long line of General Assembly resolutions castigating Israel with little regard to the security threats that Israel faces. For decades, the Assembly has devoted a disproportionate amount of time and resources to resolutions related to Israel—conducting, for example, 22 rollcall votes on UN General Assembly resolutions that related to Israel out of the 69 for all of the 57th Session of the Assembly. Besides distracting the United Nations from the countless other critical issues the world faces, these resolutions undermine efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East by casting blame almost entirely on one party. They are also unfair in that they subject Israel to discriminatory treatment not accorded to any other member state of the UN.

It is long past time for the General Assembly to stop ratifying these biased, unproductive resolutions. Voting patterns that discriminate against Israel appeared during the Cold War, when conflict in the Middle East was fueled by the rivalry between the West and the Soviet bloc. The Cold War has ended. So, too, should the polarization it engendered. We have also seen new alliances and relationships emerge in the global war on terrorism, and have witnessed the world come together in condemning terrorist violence. I refer to UN Security Council Resolution 1373, passed on September 28, 2001, which reaffirmed that any act of international terrorism constitutes a threat to international peace and security and called on states to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.

Resolution 1373 reminded us of what the United Nations was meant to be—a forum for the world to come together to identify common threats and find common ways to address them. It offered the hope of a world united in its resolve to fight terrorism, with the United States leading that fight—in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world where international terrorists operate.

It is therefore with great disappointment that we witness business as usual

at the General Assembly. The spirit of unity that prevailed for a time after September 11 has not led to a common approach to the conflict in the Middle East, and the United States has thus far been unable to enlist its friends and allies in its effort to ensure that Israel is treated fairly.

Since the inception of the United Nations, the United States has played a unique and critical role in ensuring that the U.N. lives up to the promise of its Charter—to maintain peace and security. As the sole remaining superpower, we have an opportunity to shape a global consensus on terrorism and security, one that requires new, more productive approaches to the conflict in the Middle East. This requires that we recognize the harm that comes from repeated, biased condemnations of a valuable ally in the United Nations General Assembly. It also requires sustained efforts, in the United Nations and within our bilateral and multilateral relationships, to change the voting patterns of friends, allies, and other member states.

We must bring our own values and our own vision of peace and security to the United Nations. Voting against resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel is not enough, particularly when we find ourselves in a tiny minority. We must seek to ally the world with us on this critical matter. The resolution we are introducing today thus urges the President and all members of the United States diplomatic corps to dissuade member states of the United Nations from voting in support of General Assembly resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel, and to promote within the Nations General assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

The United Nations can be—must be—a forum for defending our values. Through committed leadership, we can begin to change how other countries approach the General Assembly and how they vote on issues related to the Middle East. By doing so, we will be taking an important step toward peace.

SENATE RESOLUTION 272—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 16, 2003, AS AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BREAU, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 272

Whereas schools are the backbone of democracy in the United States, providing young people with the tools necessary to maintain the precious values of freedom, civility, and equality;

Whereas, by equipping students with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give young people in the United States hope for, and access to, a bright and productive future;

Whereas education employees, whether they provide educational, administrative, technical, or custodial services, work tirelessly to serve the children and communities of the United States with care and professionalism;

Whereas schools are the keystones of communities in the United States, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise; and

Whereas public school educators first observed American Education Week in 1921 and are now celebrating the 82nd annual observance of American Education Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning November 16, 2003, as American Education Week; and

(2) recognizes the importance of public education and the accomplishments of the many education professionals who contribute to the achievement of students across the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84—RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICES MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE REGULAR AND RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY, AND URGING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE RESERVE COMPONENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH THE SAME EQUIPMENT AS REGULAR COMPONENTS

Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. KERRY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 84

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, the National Guard and Reserve responded to the horrific terrorist attacks on the United States with professionalism and courage, rescued the injured, saved lives in New York City, provided protection to the Pentagon, and flew combat air patrols over Washington, D.C., and other major cities;

Whereas, on September 14, 2001, in Executive Order 13223, President Bush proclaimed a national emergency, and exercised his authority under section 12302 of title 10, United States Code, to allow him to call up as many as 1,000,000 National Guard and Reserve members to active duty for up to two years;

Whereas more than 300,000 National Guard and Reserve members have been called to active duty under this Executive Order, serving on the front lines by fighting terrorists in Africa and Asia and keeping the peace in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Iraq;

Whereas the National Guard and Reserve are taking on unprecedented challenges;

Whereas 64 percent of National Guard and Reserve members have been called up for active duty during at least one of the seven major mobilizations since 1990;

Whereas 7,800 National Guard and Reserve members have been mobilized more than once to serve in the Global War on Terrorism, and members serve between 60 and 120 days per year;

Whereas 42,000 of the approximately 160,000 United States troops currently in Iraq are members of the National Guard and Reserve;

Whereas the National Guard and Reserve are being deployed to Iraq without critical protective equipment, such as body armor,